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NEWS ITEMS

"Presented to the University of Texas by Mrs. James F. Perry, widow of the late James F. Perry, great nephew of General Stephen F. Austin. This book has been in the Perry library at Peach Point since the early thirties. Freeport, Texas, March 18, 1921." This is the inscription on nine ledgers and day books kept by James F. Perry I, brother-in-law of Stephen F. Austin, who came to Texas from Missouri in 1831. One of the books is a plantation record, showing the yield of cotton and corn, the labor of the slaves, and the state of the weather. It covers the years 1837-1853. The other volumes contain the record of Perry's mercantile business in Texas, 1831-1834. The volumes possess great value for the economic historian of the state.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Forest H. Farley, of Austin, the University has been permitted to copy a number of interesting documents and letters handed down to her from her great-grandfathers, Patrick Noble, Governor of South Carolina, and William Calhoun, the elder brother of John C. Calhoun.

Of especial interest is a commission issued on December 14, 1808, by Governor John Drayton naming John C. Calhoun as an aide-de-camp, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, two letters from Calhoun to Patrick Noble, one written while serving as Secretary of War, the other soon after he had sent to Governor Hamilton his famous defense of the Doctrine of Nullification.

Among the Noble papers, the earliest is a commission issued on November 10, 1779, by Governor John Rutledge, appointing him Major of the Upper Division of Regiment Ninety-six of the Militia commanded by Andrew Pickens, while the most interesting is Patrick Noble to A Georgia Committee in regard to finding some common means of defense for the Southern States against "the arbitrary, unequal, unconstitutional, and therefore unjust system of federal legislation designed to protect manufacturers."

The student of economic problems will be especially interested in a bill presented to Governor Noble for "the Traveling Expenses of Brian Bateman and J. W. Stuckey employed to go to Georgia after Mina McCay on a charge of stealing negroes, and in a letter

of John Noble to Joseph Noble in regard to taking up lands in Alabama and Florida, and the prospect for the cession of these regions by Spain.

Dr. William E. Dunn, formerly Associate Professor of Latin-American History in the University of Texas, is now director of a School of Commerce maintained by the Peruvian government at Lima, Peru.

The *Annual Report* of the American Historical Association for 1918, volume II, has just been issued by the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. It is the autobiography of Martin Van Buren (808 pages), an exceptionally interesting and valuable historical document. The greater part of it is devoted to the period of President Jackson's administrations.

The *Lamar Papers*, edited by Charles Gulick, has just been published by the Texas Library and Historical Commission.

The University of London has decided to hold in the week commencing July 11, 1921, an Anglo-American Conference of Professors of History following on the Conference of Professors of English, which was held in July, 1920. That conference proved very effective in promoting cordial relations between the university staffs of the two countries, and its results from the academic point of view are already apparent. An international committee has been established to continue in permanent session for the purpose of interchange of information on matters connected with research, and is likely to result in substantial benefits to British and American scholars in the field of English language and literature. The University of Columbia proposes to follow the precedent by arranging a Conference in English in 1922.

AFFAIRS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association will be held in Room 158 of the Main Building of the University of Texas, on April 21. Papers will be read by Professor Charles W. Ramsdell, on The Indian Problem in Texas, 1846-1859; by Mr. C. R. Wharton, on The Origin and Jurisdiction of the Alcalde in Colonial Texas; by Mrs. Lola Spell, on The First Teacher of European Music in America; and by Professor J. E. Pearce, on The Function and Importance of Museums in the World of Learning. The program will begin at 3 o'clock. There will be a business meeting at the conclusion of the papers.